

File Code: 1950
Date: March 21, 2022

Dear Interested Parties:

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL) is initiating a public scoping period for the North and South Tornado Cleanup projects. Project objectives are to clean up the effects of the tornadic storm events of December 2021. You are being contacted because you may have an interest in activities on LBL.

Purpose and Need for Action

Through extensive remote sensing and ground surveys, we have identified approximately 6,500 acres of National Forest System lands affected by the two tornado events. The two timber salvage projects are needed to remove damaged trees within the affected stands. This will include fallen trees and standing damaged trees. The primary purpose for removing damaged trees is for public safety. Secondary benefits include stand resiliency against insects and disease and opening the forest canopy to let in sunlight, thus encouraging natural regeneration of the stands. A tertiary benefit of the project will also provide marketable timber for the local economy. The efforts are situated in the far north and far south portions of LBL in Lyon and Trigg counties in Kentucky and Stewart County in Tennessee.

You may view a copy of the scoping letter and other supporting documents, including maps, on the LBL Website at: <https://www.landbetweenthelakes.us/projects/>.

Proposed Action

Activities would include the following:

- Commercial timber salvage of up to a combined 6,000 acres within the two separate project areas. We anticipate only harvesting damaged stands which have been identified within the affected areas.
- Return the affected areas to a safe condition for public use.

How to Submit Comments

The Area Supervisor of LBL is the responsible official for this project. Based on the environmental analysis, Forest Plan direction, and the results of public involvement, the responsible official will decide whether or not to proceed with a specific action. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be considered part of the public record of this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will also be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent information or environmental documents. Individuals or organizations wishing to comment are requested to do so within 10 days of the date of this letter.



Please provide the following information as part of your comments:

Name and address;

Title of the proposed action (LBL Tornado Cleanup);

Specific comments on the proposed action.

Signature or other verification of identity upon request.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are not accepting in-person comments at this time. Comments may be submitted by fax to 270-924-2086; email to comments-southern-land-between-lakes@usda.gov; or mail to:

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area
ATTN: Andy Mowrey, Area Planner
100 Van Morgan Drive
Golden Pond, KY 42211

Acceptable formats for electronic comments are: text or HTML email, Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), or formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications.

We appreciate your interest in the management of the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

X 

Signed by: Department of Agriculture